



## Northern Ireland Assembly

### COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

#### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2016 ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Danny Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Cathal Boylan  
Mrs Pam Cameron  
Mr Stewart Dickson  
Mr William Irwin  
Mr Phillip Logan  
Mr Ian Milne  
Mr Christopher Stalford
- Apologies: Mr Richie McPhillips  
Mr Seán Lynch
- In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O’Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)  
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mrs Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting began in closed session at 2.01pm.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to have a discussion about its forthcoming strategic planning meeting in closed session.

### **1. Strategic Planning**

The Committee noted a number of issues that it may wish to consider during its forthcoming strategic planning meeting including: the options open to the Committee to scrutinise and provide advice and assistance to the Executive in light of the result of the EU Referendum; approach to the Programme for Government; and matters relating to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, including the issue of citizens of Northern Ireland

who have been affected by abuse in non-statutory church-run institutions in the Republic of Ireland.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that staff should provide a paper, for Members' consideration prior to the strategic planning meeting, regarding options available for scrutiny of the Executive's response to the outcome of the Referendum on the European Union.
- Agreed:* Members agreed to provide staff with any additional proposals for strategic priorities by Friday 8 July.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite a member of staff from Assembly Research and Information Service to attend the strategic planning meeting.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to request a list of legislation that it may wish to bring forward during the next Assembly session and the course of the mandate.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to hold agenda item 13 in closed session.

*The meeting moved into public session at 2.12pm.*

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies are noted above.

## **3. Chair's Business**

### Historical Institutional Abuse

The Committee considered a request from the Panel of Experts on Redress to brief the Committee on the issue of redress for victims of historical institutional abuse.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the Panel of Experts to make a written submission and subsequently provide an oral briefing.

### EC-UK

The Committee noted that the next meeting of EC-UK, a forum that provides an opportunity for the Chairpersons of European Scrutiny Committees across the UK legislatures to discuss European matters, is scheduled for Monday 4 July.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that, in the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson would represent the Committee at the next EC-UK Forum.

*Mr William Irwin joined the meeting at 2.15pm.*

## Freedom of Information Requests during Summer Recess

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson to submit views on releasing or withholding information in any non-routine/contentious Freedom of Information requests received during periods of recess, with the Committee advised of any such requests at the first meeting following recess.

## Correspondence during Summer Recess

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to retain correspondence received during the summer for inclusion in the papers for the first meeting back following recess; and that, in exceptional circumstances, urgent correspondence should be issued to Members by email.

## **4. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 22 June 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### Programme for Government – RaISe Paper on Outcomes-based government

Members noted a Research and Information Service briefing paper on outcomes-based approaches to public governance in other jurisdictions.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing from Assembly Research early in the next session; to forward the research paper to the other statutory committees; and to publish the paper on the Committee's webpage.

### Programme for Government – Invitation to Mark Friedman

Members discussed the possibility of meeting Mr Mark Friedman, who has pioneered the outcomes-based accountability approach to governance, while he is in Belfast to take part in the 'Outcomes and Impact: A Global OBA Summit' scheduled for 10-11 October.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to explore the option of hosting a reception in Parliament Buildings on Tuesday 11 October to mark the official closing of the 'Outcomes and Impact: A Global OBA Summit', at which Mr Friedman is a keynote speaker; and that the option of costs being shared or borne by the conference organisers should be explored.

*Agreed:* Members also agreed to invite Mr Friedman to an informal meeting with the Committee prior to the proposed closing reception.

## **6. Departmental Overview and Priorities**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.21pm.*

The Committee noted a response from the Department to its request for information on the outcome of June Monitoring for TEO; a breakdown of the June Monitoring allocations to Together: Building a United Community programmes; and a timetable for the Programme for Government process.

Dr Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations; Mrs Grainne Killen, Acting Head of Good Relations and T:BUC Division; and Mr Joe Reynolds, Acting Head of PfG, DSC and Strategic Policy Division, briefed the Committee on the Departmental overview and priorities concerning strategic policy, equality and good relations with a specific focus on the Programme for Government, Delivering Social Change, Together: Building a United Community and Racial Equality.

A question and answer session followed. The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr Dickson left the meeting at 2.57pm.*

*Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.44pm.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to add the Minority Ethnic Development Fund to the list of issues it may wish to consider at its forthcoming strategic planning meeting.

## **7. Departmental Overview and Priorities**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.45pm.*

Mr Stephen Grimason, Director of Communications and Executive Support; Mr Paul Geddis, European Policy Communication Unit; and Mr Keith Jagelman, Civil Contingencies Policy Branch, briefed the Committee on the Departmental overview and priorities concerning the Executive Information Service, Inter-government & International Relations and Civil Contingencies Policy.

A question and answer session followed. The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr Dickson returned to the meeting at 4.01pm.*

*Mr Stalford left the meeting at 4.03pm.*

*Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.20pm.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to postpone the briefing from the NI Assembly EU Manager; and to request a written briefing for consideration at its strategic planning meeting in September.

## **8. Equality and Good Relations**

*Representatives from the Commission for Victims and Survivors NI joined the meeting at 4.22pm.*

Mrs Judith Thompson, Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, and Mr John Beggs, Secretary to the Commission, briefed the Committee on the work of the Commission for Victims and Survivors.

A question and answer session followed.

*Mr Milne left the meeting at 4.49pm.*

*Mr Irwin left the meeting at 4.50pm.*

*Agreed:* The witnesses agreed to provide the terms of reference for the mid-term review of the 2009-2019 Strategy for Victims and Survivors.

*Representatives from the Commission for Victims and Survivors left the meeting at 5.01pm.*

## **9. Correspondence**

### Mr George Thorley

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing information on Mr George Thorley who is an independent member of the Executive Office Departmental Board.

### Annual Report on Public Bodies and Public Appointments for 2014-15.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Executive Office highlighting the imbalance of representation on boards.

Members also noted correspondence from the Committee for the Economy expressing concerns about the composition, and number, of public bodies, and asking if the Committee for the Executive Office intends to undertake a review of public bodies.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to advise the Committee for the Economy that this will be one of a number of issues to be considered during the strategic planning meeting in September.

#### Committee for Finance

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing a provisional timetable for statutory committee budget scrutiny

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request information from the Executive Office on its proposed budget, including the baseline position; recognised pressures; spending priorities; proposed efficiencies; and identified linkages to the draft Programme for Government 2016-21.

#### ISNI Activity Tracking Report

The Committee noted the ISNI Activity Tracking Report for the Executive Office, and noted that projects funded through the Social Investment Fund are now included in the report.

### **10. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted that a draft forward work programme for the autumn would be developed following the strategic planning meeting scheduled for 7 September.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the Head of the Civil Service, Sir Malcolm McKibbin, to discuss arrangements being put in place to work through the implications of the outcome of the Referendum on EU membership.

*Agreed:* The Committee also agreed to invite Assembly Research and Information Service to prepare an issues paper on the outcome of the Referendum, including emerging implications and areas for consideration for Northern Ireland.

### **11. Any Other Business**

None.

### **12. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The Committee will hold an informal planning meeting at Stranmillis University College on Wednesday 7 September 2016 at 1 pm.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.04pm.*

**Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for the Executive Office**